

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Please consider nominating Mr. Kelly Rankin to serve as United States District Court Judge for the District of Wyoming. We join former Wyoming Democratic Governors Dave Freudenthal and Mike Sullivan in support of his nomination.

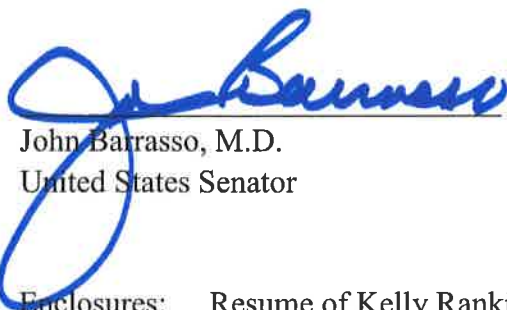
Kelly has dedicated his life to public service. He started his career as a Deputy County Attorney, served as U.S. Attorney for Wyoming, worked as Counsel to Governor Dave Freudenthal, and is currently the Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Wyoming.

Kelly will start his first day on the federal bench with a well-rounded understanding of the issues that will come before the court. As Chief Magistrate, he has overseen both criminal and civil matters. He has issued hundreds of opinions and orders, and regularly is called upon by judges in the 10th Circuit to assist with their caseload.

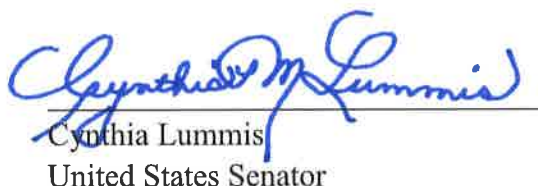
It is through this experience that Kelly will bring to the bench the needed skills to be an exemplary judge. He is passionate about the law and the role a judge plays in upholding the United States Constitution. His decisions will be well thought out and will apply the law to the facts presented to the court. He will be impartial and unbiased, treating all individuals before the court with respect and common courtesy.

We appreciate your consideration of Mr. Rankin for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact us or Dan Kunsman at (202) 224-2957 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator

Enclosures: Resume of Kelly Rankin
Letter from Governor Mike Sullivan
Letter from Governor Dave Freudenthal

Kelly H. Rankin
912 Oakhurst Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
(307) 262-4384

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Chief United States Magistrate Judge
District of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming

(June 2012 - present)

Appointed by the district court judges. Fully adjudicate civil matters with the consent of the parties to include conducting jury and bench trials. Participate in random case selection process for all civil cases. For civil actions not directly assigned, provide support to the district judges by handling their pretrial case management, conducting mediations, and ruling on pretrial motions, among other responsibilities. For criminal matters, preside over felony change of plea hearings, bond hearings, arraignments, initial appearances and other preliminary hearings to include reviewing and signing arrest warrants, search warrants, and other pre-trial orders. Responsible for misdemeanor matters arising in areas of federal jurisdiction like national parks, federal lands, and enclaves. Conduct naturalization ceremonies and participate in the administration of the court with the district judges. Assist other districts with caseload (e.g., Colorado and New Mexico).

Criminal Chief, Assistant United States Attorney
District of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming

(May 2010 - June 2012)

Served as the Chief of the Criminal Division overseeing all criminal matters for the District of Wyoming. Supervised criminal AUSAs and support staff within the Division. Worked closely with local, state, and federal criminal law enforcement agencies. Responsible for intake of matters and distribution to AUSAs. Oversaw management matters in each of four offices (Cheyenne, Casper, Lander, and Yellowstone National Park).

Counsel to the Governor
Governor Dave Freudenthal
Cheyenne, Wyoming

(January 2010 - May 2010)

Principal legal advisor to the Governor. Duties included providing the Governor advice on agency rule making, legislative matters, tribal affairs, pardons, commutations, criminal and juvenile issues, judicial appointments, natural resources, and energy. Also liaised with the Attorney General, addressed constituent inquiries, reviewed public records requests, and reviewed contracts.

*United States Attorney
District of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming*

(May 2008 - January 2010)

Served as the District's chief federal law enforcement officer under the direction of the Attorney General of the United States. Managed record year for criminal prosecutions in the District (FY09). Reviewed and established prosecution priorities for the District. Maintained a highly positive relationship with law enforcement and tribal partners. Created and chaired task force for combating prescription drug abuse. Maintained low judgment and liability rate in Civil Division. Lead revised and improved structure to collect judgments and restitution on behalf of victims and tax payers. Facilitated highly favorable district-wide evaluation for DOJ. Assessed and restructured personnel where necessary.

*Assistant United States Attorney
District of Wyoming
Casper, Wyoming*

(February 2003 - May 2008)

Prosecuted a variety of criminal cases including narcotics, firearms, violent crime, fraud, crimes against children, immigration, and petty offenses. Primary responsibility was as lead attorney for Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program. OCDETF cases involved multi-defendant complex drug, firearm, and money laundering conspiracies. Initiated the District's first federal court-authorized wiretap (more than fifteen wiretaps done in total). Lead the investigations of the three largest drug conspiracies conducted in Wyoming, at that time. Nominated three times by U.S. Attorney Mead for DOJ Director's Award. Taught various courses to the general public and local, state, and federal law enforcement. Wrote and prepared pleadings, memoranda, and briefs.

*Park County Attorney
Cody, Wyoming*

(January 1999 - February 2003)

Elected in 1998 and again in 2002. Handled misdemeanor and felony criminal cases and all civil matters on behalf of the county. Criminal matters ranged from basic traffic violations to first degree homicides. Civil matters included representing the county in road disputes, board conflicts, personnel matters, and taxation. Created and co-initiated Park County Drug Court. Main office in Cody with branch office in Powell. Wrote and prepared pleadings, memoranda, and briefs.

*Rankin Law Office
Cody, Wyoming*

(May 1998 - January 1999)

Exclusive civil practice involving contract law, property law, and employment law.

***Deputy Park County Attorney
Cody, Wyoming***

(May 1995 - May 1998)

Prosecuted exclusively criminal matters in circuit, district, and juvenile courts. Caseload included violent crimes, property offenses, sexual assaults, narcotics, wildlife violations, misdemeanor offenses, and involuntary commitment proceedings. Spent considerable time in the courtroom. Wrote and prepared pleadings, memoranda and briefs. Conducted training for law enforcement.

***Criminal Justice Instructor
Northwest College - Powell, Wyoming***

(January 1997 - December 2002)

Taught *Introduction to Criminal Justice* during fall and spring semesters on campus of Northwest College. Three hour course. Subject matter included exploration of law enforcement, the courts, and correctional agencies that oversee American justice. Examined processes and philosophies that underlie the establishment of the modern criminal justice system.

***Deputy Lincoln County Attorney
Kemmerer, Wyoming***

(September 1994 - May 1995)

Prosecuted exclusively criminal matters in county, district and juvenile courts. Caseload included violent crimes, property offenses, sexual assaults, narcotics, wildlife violations, misdemeanor offenses, involuntary commitment proceedings. Wrote and prepared pleadings, memoranda, and briefs.

EDUCATION

***University of Wyoming
College of Law
Laramie, Wyoming***

Juris Doctor

1994

***University of Wyoming
College of Arts and Sciences
Laramie, Wyoming***

Bachelor of Science - Political Science

1990

***Sheridan High School
Sheridan, Wyoming***

High School Graduate

1986

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Tenth Circuit Historical Society Board of Directors (present); President, Ewing T. Kerr Inns of Court of Wyoming (2018-2019); Federal Bar Association - District of Wyoming, Board of Directors (present); President, St. Mark's Centennial Foundation (2014-2020); Attorney Advisor for Central High School "We the People" Competition (present); Liberty Day Presenter for Cheyenne Elementary Schools (present); Youth Coach for Cheyenne Baseball and Basketball; Chairman and Founder of Wyoming Prescription Drug Abuse Committee (WRAS); Senior Warden, St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Cheyenne); University of Wyoming College of Law Historical Trial Prosecutor of Lewis & Clark; Chairman, Wyoming Correctional Advisory Board; Governor's Substance Abuse and Violent Crime Advisory Board; Wyoming Department of Family Services Advisory Board; 10th Circuit Court of Appeals Advisory Selection Committee - Senator Craig Thomas; Wyoming State Bar Legal Aid Committee; People's Law School Presenter - Natrona County; Park County Drug Court Founder and Board of Directors; Shoshone Recreation District Board of Directors (Cody); Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors (Park County); Big Horn Basin Child Support Board of Directors; Park County Youth Commission Founder and Board Member; Mountain View Manor Retirement Home Board of Directors (Cody); Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Executive Board; and Rotary International Member and Board of Directors (Cody & Cheyenne).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Thomas Gorman Inns of Court Award for Highest Level of Professionalism (2019). I was honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award for my work as the president and longstanding member of the Ewing T. Kerr Inns of Court Chapter for Wyoming. The Inns of Court program is a world-wide attorney organization that emphasizes leadership and mentoring for young attorneys.

Wyoming Rx Abuse Stakeholders (RAS) (2019). I was honored for having founded this organization in 2008. More than ten years ago, I called together a group of professionals to address the growing prescription and opioid problem in Wyoming. Since then, this diverse group of professionals and law enforcement has prospered and leads the State in education, training, awareness, and generally combating this public safety problem. See www.wyrxabusestakeholders.com.

Service to Law Enforcement and U.S. Attorney's Office (2012). Upon leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Court, I was publically honored by the FBI, ATF, BIA, DEA, DCI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for my years of service to law enforcement and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Wyoming Bar Association Recognition (2007). For my assistance with the public television production of *Inside a Wyoming Jury*, I was recognized by the Wyoming Bar Association at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) National Award for Outstanding Investigation (2007), and OCDETF Regional Meritorious Award (2006). These awards were given for my prosecution of *United States v. Goodman, et al.*, *United State v. Legarda, et al.*, and *United States v. Hermosillo, et al.* The multiple indictment drug investigation involved more than 80 defendants from on and around the Wind River Indian Reservation.

OCDETF Regional Meritorious Award (2005). This award was granted for my prosecution of *United States v. Jimenez, et al.* This case involved 34 defendants in a single indictment who conspired to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana in Wyoming and Nebraska.

OCDETF Regional Meritorious Award (2004). For my efforts in *United States v. Moreno, et al.*, I received this award following the convictions of more than 65 defendants who were convicted in state and federal court (some while I prosecuted in Park County and others as an AUSA).

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Recognition and Appreciation of Service Award (2003). I was honored in a public ceremony for my service after prosecuting numerous cases involving Wyoming wildlife during my tenure with the Park County Attorney's Office.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Recognition and Appreciation of Service Award (2003). I was honored by the D.A.R.E. program for my service during my tenure with the Park County Attorney's Office.

Park County Drug Court Outstanding Service Award (2003). I was honored in a public ceremony by the Park County Drug Court for my efforts in the formation and service to the program.

Park County Commissioners Recognition of Service Award (2003). I was honored in a public ceremony by the Park County Commissioners for my service to Park County from 1995-2003.

INTERESTS

Flying, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, cycling, tennis, reading, and family.

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN

September 9, 2021

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1124 South Durbin

Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Mr. President

Re: Kelly H. Rankin

I write to support and recommend the nomination of Kelly Rankin of Cheyenne, Wyoming to the upcoming Federal District Judgeship for the District of Wyoming. To put my recommendation in context, I served as Democratic Governor of Wyoming (currently somewhat of an oxymoron) from 1987-1995 and as Ambassador to Ireland, appointed by President Clinton and succeeding Jean Kennedy Smith, from 1999-2002. The balance of my career before and since those political forays has been practicing law and litigating in the State and Federal Courts.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Kelly Rankin from an early age (his) and following his distinguished career in the law and public service. His father and I were both raised in the same small Wyoming town and for that reason I maintained a special sense of pride and interest in Kelly and his many impressive accomplishments.

I know Governor Freudenthal provided you with Kelly's resume so I won't duplicate that effort. Let me simply say that I have observed Kelly and his work in rural Wyoming as a County and Assistant County Attorney, in the U. S. Attorney's office, Governor's office, as a sole practitioner and most recently as a Magistrate Judge, where he shouldered many of the important responsibilities of the Federal Court. In each position Kelly has exhibited character and integrity of the highest order, a balance in his approach to life and career that is admirable and what I would believe to be an ideal judicial temperament. In every aspect of his legal career he has been successful, admired and respected by colleagues and citizens alike for his intellect, demeanor and leadership.

As noted by Governor Freudenthal it may seem a bit unusual for a former Democratic Governor to be advancing the name of a Republican for the job of Federal District Judge. I submit that it reflects Kelly's unusual set of qualifications for the job together with his high character and unquestioned integrity. It would also reflect in my opinion, and I suspect Governor Freudenthal's, that there are positions which are more important to the public than to be based solely on politics.

I am happy to recommend Kelly Rankin and appreciate your consideration of Kelly for this important judicial position. As well, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your dedicated service during these strange and trying times for our country.

Very Truly Yours

Mike Sullivan

Cc: Dana Remus, White House Counsel

Freudenthal Law Office, LLC

Dave Freudenthal
Wyoming Governor 2003-2011

August 5, 2021

President Joseph Biden
White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear President Biden,

I write to recommend Kelly Rankin to fill the pending federal judicial vacancy for the District of Wyoming. I have attached his resume for your review.

By way of background, I served as U.S. Attorney during the Clinton Administration and as Governor of Wyoming from 2003 to 2011.

I have known Kelly Rankin for nearly 3 decades. Our first opportunity to work together came during his tenure as Park County Attorney. His office and the U.S. Attorney's Office worked together on several cases and numerous investigations. His respect for the rule of law, balanced judgement and careful exercise of prosecutorial discretion were evident throughout our interactions. I was delighted when Kelly was able to briefly work as Counsel to the Governor during my time in office. His calm demeanor and work ethic made him a real asset and team player. I was particularly impressed with his ability to deal with irate constituents and legislators. He seemed largely "unflappable" in the face of pent-up anger, resentment, and confusion.

His personal integrity and work ethic are truly remarkable. Even before becoming a federal Magistrate, Kelly embodied a kind of judicial demeanor with fellow lawyers, judges in the court room and in general interactions with people. Kelly's performance as Magistrate has served to enhance and expand his solid reputation within the Wyoming Bar Association. Even the citizens who end up in his Court generally feel they were treated with respect and fairness.

Clearly, Kelly is a Republican. You do not become County Attorney in Park County as a Democrat. However, he is not a "political" Republican in the modern sense. His basic values, not his politics, guide his life and decisions. I have

spoken with Senator Barrasso about Kelly. At the time, Senator Barrasso indicated Kelly was someone he could support should you decide to appoint him.

I urge you to seriously consider Kelly for appointment to the Federal District Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Freudenthal", written in a cursive style.

David D. Freudenthal

Wyoming Governor 2003-2011

cc: Dana Remus, White House Counsel

Attachment: Resume of Kelly Rankin